

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 97

Introduced by Assembly Member Perea

February 2, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 97—Relative to Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 97, as introduced, Perea. Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

This measure would designate November 2012 as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month. It would recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage to the state and afford all Californians the opportunity to understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California and our nation are at once blessed and
2 enriched by the unparalleled diversity of our residents; and
3 WHEREAS, Among this unprecedented diversity in California,
4 there reside an estimated 250,000 Americans of Sikh origin,
5 comprising nearly 40 percent of the nation's estimated Sikh
6 population; and
7 WHEREAS, Sikh immigrants have resided in California for
8 more than a century, with the first Sikh immigrants having labored
9 on railroad construction projects, in lumber mills, and in the
10 agricultural heartlands of the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and
11 Imperial valleys; and

1 WHEREAS, The first Sikh temple (Gurdwara) in California
2 was established in Stockton in 1912, and Sikh temples have since
3 been established in communities throughout California, especially
4 in the central valley, with more than a dozen in Fresno alone; and

5 WHEREAS, While Sikh Americans have distinguished
6 themselves in numerous areas of endeavor, they have demonstrated
7 particular success in the areas of agriculture, trucking, medicine,
8 and in the creation of small, family-owned businesses; and

9 WHEREAS, Yuba City boasts the largest population of Sikh
10 and Punjabi Americans in the nation and the central valley boasts
11 the second largest population; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Dalip Singh Saund of California,
13 born in Amritsar, India, was a lettuce farmer in the Imperial Valley
14 and an elected judge of the Justice Court in the Westmoreland
15 Judicial District before becoming the first Sikh American and
16 Asian American member of the United States Congress, where he
17 served from 1957 to 1963; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind, born in Taragarh, India,
19 was a soldier, scholar, and activist who served in the United States
20 Army during World War I, studied at University of California,
21 Berkeley, and struggled and fought for Asian Indians to be allowed
22 to become American citizens; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany of Palo Alto, born in
24 Moga, India, is an accomplished scientist and inventor who has
25 been awarded over 100 patents, spurring advancements in lasers,
26 biomedical instrumentation, solar energy, and pollution monitoring,
27 and is widely acknowledged to be the father of fiber optics, a
28 technology that has allowed for high-speed, digital communication;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have served as mayors of
31 California cities, including David Dhillon in El Centro, Gurbal
32 Samra in Livingston, Amarpreet “Ruby” Dhaliwal in San Joaquin,
33 and Kashmir Singh Gill in Yuba City, and numerous Sikh
34 Americans have served as council members of California cities;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, The Sikh and Punjabi American communities of
37 California continue to make important contributions to our state
38 and nation; and

39 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans throughout California celebrate
40 the coronation day of Sikh Scripture as Guru Gaddi Divas, along

1 with parades in cities across California, the largest being held in
2 Yuba City on the first Sunday of every November followed by the
3 second largest in Selma, California; and

4 WHEREAS, The Sikh Council of Central California,
5 representing a dozen main Sikh temples in the Fresno County area,
6 actively takes part in the Multifaith Exchange and Interfaith
7 Alliance meetings and seminars to share their monotheistic religion
8 and the tenets of their faith, and the important role that Sikh
9 Americans play in furthering mutual understanding and respect
10 among all peoples; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
12 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
13 month of November 2012 to be California Sikh American
14 Awareness and Appreciation Month; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges
16 the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage
17 to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to afford all
18 Californians the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and
19 appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans;
20 and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
22 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution to the
23 Members of the Legislature, members of the California Sikh
24 American community, and other interested organizations or
25 persons.